you, I would like to know from the Minister as to whether the previous Government had cut down the food and fertiliser subsidies to a certain extent. Now, this Government seeks the IMF loan. There are also conditionalities for reducing the subsidies for food and fertiliser. What is the safety-net this Government is going to take to see that these commodities are delivered at lower prices and at competitive prices through public distribution system so that the efficiency of the public distribution system is enhanced further ? If he is going to reduce the subsidies, how is he going to see that the system runs ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER : I think that question was put by another Member. (Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANDGAJAPATI RAJU POOSAPATI : Sir, I am putting the safety part of it. (Interruptions) What I am asking is that when the amount used for subsidy is reduced, there has been a slash in the subsidies. Now, this Government, in view of the proposed IMF loan, further decides to slash the subsidies

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED . The issue price as on today is the subsidised price. (Interruptions) The subsidised price will continue. (Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said in reply to the question that the Central Government was aware of these things... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not read out the reply of the hon. Minister, you come direct to the question.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : I am coming to that. I would like to ask him as to how many areas have been provided mobile van facility ? Besides, how many vans are operating and carrying consumer supplies to these areas ? Statewise details may kindly be made available.

[*English*]

Mr. SPEAKER : Do you have this information

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : No Sir, this information is not available with me right now.

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER : Next question. We may take Question Nos. 63 and 80 together since they are identical.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PRASAR BHARATI ACT

463. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the implementation of Prasar Bharati Act ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any further amendments to the present Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the autonomy to the electronic media will be provided ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ((KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Most of the activities essential to the formal establishment of the Corporation have not been completed.

(c) Yes, Sir, if necessary.

(d) It is not possible to spell out the details of amendments at this stage. However, the Government is committed to set up Prasar Bharati and introduce competition in the electronic media.